WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A multi-partition computer system, comprising:

a plurality of cell boards, with each cell board including at least one main processor; and

a service processor that is connected to each of the cell boards;

wherein each partition includes at least one cell board, and the service processor manages configuration of the partitions.

2.   The computer system of claim 1, wherein:

each partition is running an operating system that is independent of the other partitions.

3.   The computer system of claim 1, wherein:

each cell board of a partition is capable of being reassigned to another partition while the computer system is on-line.

4.   The computer system of claim 1, wherein:

the service processor communicates with the cell boards via at least one USB format bus.

5.   The computer system of claim 1, wherein:

each cell board may be replaced while the computer system is on-line.

6.   The computer system of claim 1, wherein:

the service processor can command the operations of the cell boards.

7.   The computer system of claim 1, wherein:

the service processor can command the operations of the partitions.

8.   The computer system of claims 7, wherein:

the service processor can reset a partition.

9.   The computer system of claim 1, wherein:

the service processor may be replaced while the computer system is on-line.

10.   The computer system of claim 1, further comprising:

a profile that describes a configuration for the computer system;

wherein the service processor and each cell board maintains a copy of the profile.

11.   The computer system of claim 10, wherein:

the profile is managed by the service processor.

12.   The computer system of claim 11, wherein:

information describing certain changes to the computer system are relayed to the service processor;

the service processor modifies the profile to correspond to the information; and

the service processor distributes the modified profile to the cell boards.

13.   The computer system of claim 1, wherein each cell board includes:

a micro-controller that handles communication between the service processor and the cell board.